

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1-36 have been canceled without prejudice and new claims 37-58 have been added. The new claims are fully supported by the specification or drawing. No new matter has been added. Claims 37-58 are presented for examination.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicant has amended the specification to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of various combinations of U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 2002/0126672 (Chow) and 2003/0131331 (Reblewski), and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,619,713 (Baum), 5,809,330 (Ninomya), 6,169,685 (Gandini), 6,374,326 (Kansal) and 5,890,005 (Lindholm).

Applicant has canceled claims 1-36 without acquiescence to the reasons for rejection and therefore submits that the rejections of those claims is moot.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 37-58 and submits that each of the new claims includes one or more limitations not disclosed or suggested by any the above-listed references. For example, claim 37 recites in part:

a select circuit to store a plurality of segment-select values, each
segment-select value indicating which of a plurality of segments of input
data is to source a respective bit of the comparand value

Applicant respectfully submits that the above limitation is not disclosed or suggested by any of the above-listed references and therefore that even if the references could be combined in the manner suggested in the Office Action, the combination would not meet all the limitations of claim 37. Claims 38-52 depend from and further limit claim 37 and therefore include the above-recited limitation, and claims 53-58 similarly include one or more limitations not disclosed or suggested by the above-listed references.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone

interview would be helpful in any way, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

A petition for a two (2) month extension of time is enclosed herewith.

Authorization is hereby given to charge deposit account 501914 for any fee deficiency associated with this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

SHEMWELL GREGORY & COURTNEY LLP

Date June 3, 2005

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Charles E. Shemwell', is written over a horizontal line.

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